

## **AFCP 2018 Competition Request for Proposals (DEADLINE: December 31, 2017)**

1. **SUMMARY:** The United States Embassy in Belarus is accepting project proposals for the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) 2018 Competition. The deadline for submitting proposals is December 31, 2017. Full implementation of the AFCP 2018 program is pending the availability of FY 2018 funds and an approved financial plan.

2. **AFCP PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:** The United States Embassy in Belarus ("the Embassy") requests proposals for funding in FY 2018 for projects to preserve cultural heritage in less developed countries through the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP). The projects recommended by a review panel for funding under this program will advance U.S. foreign policy objectives and demonstrate the depth of U.S. respect for the cultural heritage of other countries.

3. **FUNDING AREAS:** AFCP supports projects to preserve cultural heritage in the following three areas:

- a. CULTURAL SITES—such as, but not limited to, historic buildings and archaeological sites;
- b. CULTURAL OBJECTS AND COLLECTIONS from a museum, site, or similar institution—that include, but are not limited to, archaeological and ethnographic objects, paintings, sculpture, manuscripts, and general museum conservation needs; and,
- c. FORMS OF TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSION—such as traditional music, indigenous languages, and crafts.

4. **FUNDING PRIORITIES—GENERAL:** AFCP will recommend for funding those proposals that include project activities in adherence to the following guidelines and to international standards for the preservation of cultural heritage. These activities may include:

- a. CULTURAL SITES: restoration of an ancient or historic building, preservation of an archaeological site, or documentation of cultural sites in a region for preservation purposes.
- b. CULTURAL OBJECTS AND COLLECTIONS: conservation treatment for an object or collection of objects; needs assessment of a collection with respect to its condition and strategies for improving its state of conservation; inventory of a collection for conservation and protection purposes; the creation of safe environments for storage or display of collections; or specialized training in the care and preservation of collections.
- c. FORMS OF TRADITIONAL CULTURAL EXPRESSION: documentation and audiovisual recording of traditional music and dance forms for broad dissemination as the means of teaching and further preserving them, or support for training in the preservation of traditional applied arts or crafts in danger of extinction.

5. **FUNDING PRIORITIES—SPECIFIC TO THE AFCP 2016 ANNUAL COMPETITION:** Proposals for projects that meet one or more of the following criteria will receive consideration in FY 2018:

- A. Directly support U.S. treaty or bilateral agreement obligations, such as cultural property protection agreements;
- B. Strengthen capacity in country to preserve and protect cultural heritage;
- C. Support the preservation of inscribed World Heritage sites;
- D. Advance long-term cultural preservation objectives, lay the groundwork for subsequent AFCP-supported activities, or encourage the continued or expanded application of proven methods at the project site or elsewhere; and
- E. Engage women, youth, or under-served communities.

6. **SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING SITES AND OBJECTS THAT HAVE A RELIGIOUS CONNECTION:** The establishment clause of the U.S. Constitution permits the government to include religious objects and sites within an aid program under certain conditions. For example, an item with a religious connection (including a place of worship) may be the subject of a cultural preservation grant if the item derives its primary significance and is nominated solely on the basis of architectural, artistic, historical, or other cultural (not religious) criteria.

7. **ELIGIBLE PROJECT APPLICANTS:** The Embassy defines eligible project applicants as reputable and accountable non-commercial entities, such as non-governmental organizations, museums, ministries of culture, or similar institutions and organizations that are able to demonstrate that they have the requisite experience and capacity to manage projects to preserve cultural heritage. The Embassy must ensure the applicants are able to receive support from the U.S. Government and AFCP grants in accordance with AFCP program policies.

8. INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND UNALLOWABLE COSTS: AFCP will NOT support the following activities or costs, and applications involving any of the activities or costs below will be deemed ineligible:

A. Preservation or purchase of privately or commercially owned cultural objects, collections, or real property, including those whose transfer from private or commercial to public ownership is envisioned, planned, or in process but not complete at the time of proposal submission;

B. Preservation of natural heritage (physical, biological, and geological formations, paleontological collections, habitats of threatened species of animals and plants, fossils, etc.);

C. Preservation of hominid or human remains;

D. Preservation of news media (newspapers, newsreels, radio and TV programs, etc.);

E. Preservation of published materials available elsewhere (books, periodicals, etc.);

F. Development of curricula or educational materials for classroom use;

G. Archaeological excavations or exploratory surveys for research purposes;

H. Historical research, except in cases where the research is justifiable and integral to the success of the proposed project;

I. Acquisition or creation of new exhibits or collections for new or existing museums;

J. Construction of new buildings or permanent coverings (over archaeological sites, for example);

K. Commissions of new works of art or architecture for commemorative or economic development purposes;

L. Creation of new or the modern adaptation of existing traditional dances, songs, chants, musical compositions, plays, or other performances;

M. Creation of replicas or re-creation of cultural objects or sites that no longer exist;

N. Relocation of cultural sites from one physical location to another;

O. Removal of cultural objects or elements of cultural sites from the country for any reason;

P. Digitization of cultural objects or collections, unless part of a larger, clearly defined conservation effort;

Q. Conservation plans or other studies, unless they are one component of a larger project to implement the results of those studies;

R. Cash reserves, endowments, or revolving funds (funds must be expended within the award period [up to five years] and may not be used to create an endowment or revolving fund);

S. Costs of fund-raising campaigns;

T. Indirect costs or operating expenses, i.e. expenses incurred during the day-to-day operational activities of an organization, such as office rent, utilities, license fees, and other costs for administrative time, services, or materials not directly related to performing project work;

U. Contingency, unforeseen, or miscellaneous costs or fees;

V. Costs of work performed prior to announcement of the award;

W. International travel, except in cases where travel is justifiable and integral to the success of the proposed project;

X. Travel or study for professional development;

Y. Individual projects costing less than \$10,000;

Z. Independent U.S. projects overseas.

9. INELIGIBLE PROJECT APPLICANTS: AFCP does not award grants to individuals, commercial entities, or to embassies or past award recipients which have not fulfilled the reporting requirements of previous AFCP awards.

10. **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**: Project proposals must include or address the following:

A. **Project Basics**, including title, project dates, AFCP focus area, and other top-level information;

B. **Project Applicant information**, including contact information, DUNS Number, and SAM registration (see Section 18 below);

C. **Project Location**;

D. **Proof of Official Permission to undertake the project** and the endorsement and support of the appropriate national authority;

E. **Project Purpose** that briefly explains the project objectives and desired results;

F. **Project Activities Description** that explains how the applicant intends to achieve the project objectives and results, presents proposed tasks in a logical order, and describes how those tasks directly contribute towards achieving the project objectives and results;

G. **Project Time Frame or Schedule** that identifies the major project phases and milestones, with performance target dates for achieving them (NOTE: Applicants may propose project performance periods of up to 60 months [five years] with five budget periods of one year each; projects must begin before September 30, 2016, and conclude no later than September 30, 2020);

H. **Project Participant Information**, specifically an estimated number of non-US and US participants and estimated number of primary and secondary participants, as well as resumes of the proposed project director and other primary project participants, which demonstrate that the applying entity (ministry of culture, NGO, etc.) has assembled the requisite experience and the capacity to carry out projects to preserve cultural heritage;

I. **Statement of Importance** highlighting the historic, architectural, artistic, or cultural (nonreligious) values of the cultural site, object, collection, or form of traditional expression;

J. **Statement of Urgency** indicating the severity of the situation and explaining why the project must take place now;

K. **Statement of Sustainability** outlining the steps or measures that will be taken to maintain the site, object, or collection in good condition after the AFCP-supported project is complete; or, in the case of forms of traditional cultural expression, to preserve and disseminate the documentation, knowledge, or skills either resulting or gained from the project;

L. **Detailed project budget**, demarcated in one-year budget periods (2018, 2019, etc.), that lists all costs in separate categories:

--Personnel,

--Fringe Benefits,

--Travel [including Per Diem],

--Equipment,

--Supplies,

--Contractual,

--Other Direct Costs,

--Cost Sharing;

indicates funds from other sources; and gives a justification for any anticipated international travel costs;

M. **Attachments and supporting documents** including, at minimum and REQUIRED, five (5) high quality digital images (JPEGs) or audiovisual files that convey the nature and condition of the site, object, or form of expression and, in the case of a site or object,

show the urgency or need for the proposed project (collapsing wall, water damage, worn fabric, broken handle, etc), any historic structure reports, conservation needs assessments, and other planning documents compiled in preparation for the proposed project;

11. **COST SHARING AND OTHER FORMS OF COST PARTICIPATION:** There is no minimum or maximum percentage required for this competition. However, AFCP encourages cost sharing, in-kind contributions, and other forms of cost participation. Cost sharing may be in the form of allowable direct or indirect costs. For accountability, you must maintain written records to support all costs which are claimed as your contribution, as well as costs to be paid by the federal government. Such records are subject to audit.

12. **DUNS NUMBER AND SAM REGISTRATION:** Applicants requesting \$25,000 or more in federal assistance must have a Dun & Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) prior to submitting applications. Applicants may acquire DUNS numbers at no cost by calling the dedicated toll-free DUNS number request line at 1-866-705-5711 or by requesting a number online at <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>. SAM is the official, free on-line registration database for the U.S. Government. SAM.gov replaced the Central Contractor Registration (CCR), the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA), and the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) in July 2012. SAM.gov collects, validates, stores, and disseminates data in support of federal agency acquisition and grant award mission. Registration in SAM is free: <https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/>.

13. **APPLICATION SCREENING CRITERIA:** The Embassy will first screen all proposals for technical eligibility based on the criteria contained in this request for grant proposals. The Embassy will also screen proposals against the lists of AFCP program-specific ineligible activities, costs, and applicants (see relevant sections above).

14. **APPLICATION RATING CRITERIA:** The Embassy will rate all applications based on the program funding priorities; the quality, soundness, and comprehensiveness of the proposed project and budget; the urgency of the proposed project; the quality and quantity of supporting materials, such as resumes of the key project participants, images of the resource, and notices of official permission from the responsible resource steward, such as a ministry of culture.

15. **AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION:** The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs(ECA) will announce the awards via cable as soon as possible once the Department's FY 2018 funding levels are known and a financial plan approved.

16. **PERFORMANCE AND DELIVERABLES:** AFCP 2018 award recipients must submit semi-annual performance progress and federal financial status and final reports on time as specified in the Notice of Award.

17. **DISCLAIMER:** Explanatory information provided by the Embassy that contradicts published language is not binding. Issuance of this Request for Proposals does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the U.S. Government. The Embassy reserves the right to waive program formalities and to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements as specified above and in the Notice of Award.